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RURAL DISTRICT of TAMWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

G. W. KNIGHT, M.D., D.P.H.,

including the

R E P O R T

of the

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for the year

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TO THE TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have once again the honour of presenting the Annual Report of the health of the Rural District and as in last year's report I have omitted any special reference to the County Health Services in the District, details of which may be obtained from the County Medical Officer's Report for the year 1954.

The Vital Statistics for the year show no abnormal fluctuations and the incidence of infectious diseases was at its lowest for many years. The death rate continues to be low and the birth rate has remained at a slightly higher rate than that experienced over the whole of England and Wales. There were no epidemics of disease other than a slightly higher than average incidence of influenza at the close of the year. The population is gradually increasing and may be expected to continue especially if the area is included at some time in the future in any proposals to deal with the overspill population of the neighbouring City of Birmingham. Compared with many of its neighbours, Tamworth Rural District appears to be less favourably treated so far as Maternity Hospital beds are concerned and I am pleased to note that official representations have been made to the Regional Hospital Board, supported by resolutions passed by this Council, and by the Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council, with a view to providing a remedy. Similarly, Chest Clinic facilities for tuberculous and other patients are non-existent in the district, both patients and contacts having to travel to Nuneaton or Atherstone for routine examination. This has previously been brought to the notice of the Chest Physician and I am pleased to report that not only were beds for in-patient treatment made available in Tamworth during the year but in addition I have now been informed that Chest Clinic facilities for out-patient examinations are contemplated in 1955. On the other hand, Geriatric beds for the aged and chronic sick are readily at hand in Tamworth and during the year 11 aged persons (6 males and 5 females) were admitted for treatment and care. Voluntary agencies providing for the welfare of the aged persons in the home are strongly represented in the district. One of the main difficulties in providing Domestic Help Services in a scattered rural area is the inability to utilise the Domestic Helps other than in the locality in which they normally live and in consequence the demand for these services is small.

Approximately 9 per cent. of the population in the District are 65 years old and over and the statisticians prophesy that this will increase in the future. Provision should therefore be made for housing the ageing members of the community when designing new estates. A start has already been made by the Sanitary Inspectors to survey the area in order to classify houses according to their fitness and housing problems continue to occupy the major proportion of the two Sanitary Inspectors' time.

The return of private slaughterhouses has resulted in further demands on the time of these Inspectors but 100 per cent. inspection has been maintained without undue difficulty because of the limited number of licensed slaughterhouses. The two in regular use have been modernised and show a high standard of fitness for the purpose.

Mr. Shaw, your Engineer and Surveyor, once again has provided me with a report on housing, sewerage and refuse collection where it will be seen that a number of sewage disposal schemes are in preparation whilst work on two, including the major Northern Area Scheme, has already commenced. The need for utilizing your Inspectors in the field as much as possible prompts me to ask that consideration be given by the Council to the question of providing suitable clerical assistance in the Public Health Department, for I find that time is being wasted by your Sanitary Inspectors typing and filing which could, I feel, be undertaken by less qualified persons employed either exclusively in the Department or alternatively in conjunction with other departments.

G. W. KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
Coleshill.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	22,032
Population (Registrar General's estimate, Mid-1954)	...	...	...	...	16,460
Number of inhabited premises (Mar., 1954)—					
Houses	...	...	...	...	4,807
Shops	...	...	...	...	114
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	25
Rateable Value (31st March, 1954)	...	...	...	...	£69,168
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£259

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate

Illegitimate

Totals

Males	Females	Total
150	119	269
2	1	3
152	120	272

Birth Rate, 1954: 16.5 per 1,000 population.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Birth Rate	16.5	17.0	16.6	16.6	16.6	17.3	19.6	21.2

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate

Illegitimate

Totals

Males	Females	Total
2	2	4
—	—	—
2	2	4

Still Birth Rate, 1954: 14.5 per 1,000 total births.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Still Birth Rate	14.5	34.8	14.8	22.5	15.0	21.6	26.5	34.5

Prematurity.

Total number of live premature births	...	17
Total number of premature still births	...	1
Total premature births	...	18
Incidence of prematurity	...	6.5%
Proportion of premature live births	...	6.2%

DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
All causes	94	45	139

Crude death rate, 1954: 8.4 per 1,000 population.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Crude Death Rate	8.4	7.5	10.0	11.9	10.4	9.2	9.9	10.2

Classified Causes of Death.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	10	4	14
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	2	—	2
16. Diabetes ...	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	11	7	18
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	8	5	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	5	2	7
20. Other heart disease ...	16	6	22
21. Other circulatory disease ...	5	—	5
22. Influenza ...	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia ...	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis ...	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	3	—	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ...	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	8	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	—	1
34. All other accidents ...	3	—	3
35. Suicide ...	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
37. All causes ...	94	45	139

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	5	1	6

Infant Mortality Rate, 1954: 22.05 per 1,000 live births.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Infant Death Rate	22.1	25.3	37.5	45	23	11	20	29.8

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	4

Neo-natal Mortality Rate, 1954: 14.7 per 1,000 live births (Compared with 29.9 per 1,000 live births in 1952 and 14.4 per 1,000 live births in 1953).

Classified causes of Death of Infants under one year (including survival period).

Cause of Death	Up to 12 hrs.		12 to 24 hrs.		1—7 days		1—4 weeks		1—6 months		6—12 months		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
(a) Intracranial hæmorrhage ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Atelectasis and prematurity ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Hydrocephalus and spina bifida ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(d) Congenital heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
(e) Gastro enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	1

Maternal Deaths : Nil.

Deaths due to Malignant Disease

Males Females Total

All causes ... 18 9 27

Cancer Death Rate: 1.6 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates

<p>* Using comparability factors.</p> <p>Births 1.01</p> <p>Deaths 1.09</p>	Tamworth Rural District	England and Wales (provisional rates)
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population	
BIRTHS		
Live Births ...	*16.66	15.2
Still Births ...	14.5 (a)	24.0 (a)
DEATHS		
All Causes ...	*9.11	11.3
	Rates per 1,000 live births	
All causes under 1 year of age ...	22.05 (b)	25.5 (b)
Enteritis & diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	3.8	0.8

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

General Comment

Although there was a slight drop in the birth rate during the year (16.5 per 1,000 population in 1954 compared with 17.0 in 1953) there has been no marked fluctuation during the past six years, the rates during this period being considerably lower than those recorded in 1947 and 1948. Notwithstanding this the comparative birth rate for the Rural District is 1.4 higher than the provisional rate of 15.2 for England and Wales as a whole during 1954. The stillbirth rate has dropped from 34.8 in 1953 to 14.5 per 1,000 total births, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 24.0 per 1,000 total births, but it must be remembered that statistically the figures are unreliable because they are so small and violent fluctuations one way or another can result from pure chance. Of the 272 total births in the district during the year 18 (9 born at home and 9 in hospital) were premature, the incidence of prematurity being 6.5 per cent. This is not in any way abnormal, whilst in addition it is gratifying to note that only one infant death under the age of one year was ascribed to this cause. Approximately 64 per cent. of births during the year were domiciliary ones, and the District Nurse/Midwife attended as a midwife in roughly 80 per cent. of home confinements and as a maternity nurse in attendance with the family doctor in the remaining 20 per cent. of instances. Approximately 26 per cent. of births were hospital births compared with 58 per cent. in Meriden Rural District, and the low proportion compared with other areas is due entirely to the lack of maternity beds in the district. During the year, however, I am given to understand that this matter was being brought to the notice of the Regional Hospital Board with a view to obtaining more hospital accommodation. The remaining 15 per cent. of births recorded in the area were notified from various private nursing homes which is more than three times the rate experienced in the neighbouring Meriden Rural District where maternity beds are readily available.

Nevertheless, the maternal mortality rate is nil and has been so since 1949, being in itself a creditable reflection on the standard of the maternity services available in the District.

Deaths of infants under the age of one year totalled 6, and half occurred during the neo-natal period (i.e., within a month of birth). Three out of the 6 infant deaths were unavoidable in the practical sense being due to congenital malformations, 2 were due to intracranial hæmorrhage due to birth injury and the last was due to gastro-enteritis. The infant mortality rate of 22 per 1,000 live births is still lower than the rate of 25.5 per

1,000 experienced in the Country as a whole. The comparative death rate at all ages and from all causes also continues to be lower than the national average and the major causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system in that order. Approximately 1 out of every 5 deaths during the year were ascribed to cancer and the proportion of deaths since 1947 due to this cause is roughly 1 out of every 5 deaths from all causes. The gradual rise in the cancer death rate is due to a number of causes not the least of which is the improved methods and means of diagnosis but notwithstanding this there are grounds for believing the increase is more real than apparent. Of the total number of deaths from all causes (139) during the year, 47 were of persons over the age of 75 years, representing 33 per cent. of the total. The sex ratio of deaths over this age was roughly 2 males to every female.

There was one death due to a motor traffic accident during the year and since 1947 (when there were 5 such fatalities) on an average there have been roughly 2 deaths each year. (Total deaths since 1947—15).

Deaths due to infectious diseases were limited to tuberculosis (1 death) and influenza (1 death), pneumonia accounted for 5 deaths during the year and gastro-enteritis and diarrhœa for 2 deaths. These latter deaths occurred in the extremes of life when the risks are enhanced, one being an infant aged 8 months who failed to survive an attack of gastro-enteritis and the other was a 72-year-old lady who in addition to her gastro-enteritis was also enfeebled by pernicious anæmia and diabetes. As the death rate from diarrhœa is often used as an index of sanitary standards in an area the comparatively high death rate in the district could well be misinterpreted. It is, however, a completely unreliable index so far as this area is concerned because the numbers involved were insufficiently large to be statistically reliable.

The population estimated by the Registrar General for the year 1954 is 16,460, an increase of 1,320 over the figure deduced from the 1931 census and an increase of 342 over that found at the 1951 census although the excess of live births over deaths since 1951 was found to be 394.

As the Rural District's main industries are agriculture and coalmining the population in Social Class IV (agriculture and mining workers) is one of the highest in the county. Set in the proportions per 1,000 population the distribution in Social Classes in the District is as follows:—

**Social Class (proportion per 1,000 occupied and
retired males)**

I	II	III	IV	V
7	94	495	320	84

I—Professional, etc., occupations.

II—Intermediate occupations.

III—Skilled occupations.

IV—Partly skilled occupations.

V—Unskilled occupations.

The type of industry in the District accounts for the fact that only 2 per cent. of occupied or retired males in the Rural District had a terminal education age of 17 years compared with the County average of 6 per cent. (1951 Census).

Following the 1951 Census it also was found that 9 per cent. of the population in the District are aged 65 years and over compared with 10 per cent. averaged over the administrative County as a whole and that from the housing aspect the population of that time (16,101) consisting of some 4,618 private households occupied 4,534 separate dwellings (21,210 rooms) giving an average of 0.77 persons per room (compared with 0.74 in the administrative County as a whole) and 2.3 per cent. of persons at more than two per room (compared with 2.8 in the County).

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1954.

(Giving age groups, deaths and admissions to hospital).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified								Total cases re- moved to hospital	Total deaths
	At all ages	At Ages—years								
		Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards		
Measles	13	2	4	4	2	1	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	19	1	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	5
Scarlet Fever	27	—	11	16	—	—	—	—	6	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	—	1	1	2	1	3	1	5	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	75	3	26	31	5	4	5	1	17	6

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Measles	13	197	155	298	141	42	294	77
Whooping Cough	19	63	34	206	26	42	50	16
Pneumonia	4	21	13	19	15	9	19	12
Scarlet Fever	27	37	27	13	16	11	19	7
Erysipelas	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	—	1	—	3	} 6	} 1	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	1	1	—			—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	1	5	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	13	9	8	13	9	9	3
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	1	4	10	4	8	2
Food Poisoning	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	75	337	256	557	226	124	403	118

Distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases.

Area	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis
Wilnecote	6	1	4	—	—	2	6	—
Glascote	3	8	—	—	—	—	2	—
Austrey	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amington	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Newton Regis	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
Kettlebrook	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsbury	—	1	10	—	1	1	—	1
Hurley	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Shuttington	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	19	27	1	1	4	9	1

Comment.

1954 is remarkable for the general low incidence of notifiable infectious disease for only 75 cases were reported, being the lowest total for the past eight years under review. Almost every disease showed a drop in prevalence apart from scarlet fever when 23 cases were reported amongst the children in Kingsbury and Hurley. All were due to cross infection from one to another and no common source, e.g., milk, was responsible. As this disease is now so mild parents are less strict in applying measures to prevent the case infecting others although six patients were, in fact, removed to Isolation Hospital. This move is becoming rarely necessary on medical grounds, the patient usually recovering without ill effect on home treatment. The need for removal to hospital is usually retained for special cases requiring nursing care and in those instances where isolation of the patient cannot reasonably be undertaken in the home. During the latter months of the year, cases of influenza B infection were apparent and there was one death recorded from this disease, that being a 75-year-old man who developed broncho-pneumonia following infection with the virus. The incidence of this virus infection, however, was not as heavy as that experienced in the neighbouring district of Meriden R.D.C. and although a number of school children were affected during the latter weeks of the Christmas term absenteeism from school was not abnormally gross. The low incidence of the disease is also reflected in the small number of cases of primary pneumonia notified during the year, only 4 being reported compared with 21 in the previous year.

Measles was virtually non-existent during the year, only 13 cases being reported, the lowest return during the past eight years. This disease, however, tends to recur in cycles and as soon as a new and susceptible child population is built up again the infection will show itself once more. During the past eight years when some 1,217 cases of measles were notified there has been only 1 death ascribed to this cause. The reduction in mortality is due solely to the advent of modern drugs which reduce the risks resulting from secondary infections. Nevertheless it still is a dangerous disease where young infants are concerned and unnecessary exposure during epidemic periods is to be discouraged. Whooping Cough is also a grave risk to young infants and immunisation is offered to everyone in the district through the agency of the Warwickshire County Health Services. Alternatively, immunisation can be given by the family doctor. Only 19 cases were notified during the year, which is the lowest total of cases since 1947 when there were only 16 cases notified. There were no deaths. Although it is too early to assess the effect of immunisation against whooping cough in the district the value of immunisation against diphtheria can be

deduced relatively easily by virtue of the fact that no cases have been diagnosed in the district for the past eight years. It is just as important to continue immunisation now as it was when diphtheria was epidemic for unless we do so we are creating a susceptible population who will have acquired no natural immunity to the disease which follows a sub-clinical infection. If diphtheria is then re-introduced into such a community the pendulum will have swung back to its original position once more and multiple cases will be seen again.

Immunisations are carried out at Child Welfare Centres, in the schools and by the family doctor in the surgery or at home. The proportion of infants immunised against this disease is disappointing, approximately 35 per cent. only of infants under one year of age being protected, rising to roughly half the infant population at two years of age. Of the primary immunisations undertaken during the year 39 per cent. were carried out before the age of one year, 25 per cent. between the ages of one and two years, and 35 per cent. were delayed beyond this period. There does not appear to be any widespread objection to immunisation but parents are becoming too apathetic and do not bother to arrange for immunisation to be carried out as a routine. Even though the Health Visitor by personal visits to the home advises early immunisation in addition to the fact that a reminder post-card is sent to each parent on the infant's first birthday, it is a matter of some concern that almost as many primary immunisations were carried out on children over two years of age as were carried out on infants during their first year of life.

Total Number of Immunisations against Diphtheria during 1954.

	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—9 years	9—15 years	Total
Primary	98	64	21	10	9	43	2	247
Reinforcing	—	—	—	—	51	299	151	501
Total	98	64	21	10	60	342	153	748

Vaccinations against smallpox are also carried out at Child Welfare Centres or by the family doctor, the total numbers undertaken during the year being given in the following table. This compares with 56 primary vaccinations and 24 re-vaccinations in 1953. As there were 272 live births during the year a rough estimate of the infant population vaccinated before they reach the age of one is approximately 14 per cent. For comparison it should be noted that the National average is nearer 35 per cent., itself a disappointing figure.

Total Number of Vaccinations during 1954.

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—15 years	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated	39	2	2	2	1	46
Revaccinated	—	—	1	—	13	14
Totals	39	2	3	2	14	60

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during the year and there were no notified cases of dysentery. Although this may appear to be a creditable report there is little doubt that cases are occurring which are never brought to the notice of the authorities or to the family doctor because of the mildness of the symptoms. The strictest standard of cleanliness should be observed by all who handle food, either in the home or in the shop or warehouse. Thorough handwashing after visiting the lavatory is essential if we are to limit the spread of bowel infections. Similarly the dangers of handling food when suffering from septic sores or lesions should be appreciated as well as those associated with sneezing over foodstuffs and picking the nose (the nose and throat harbour many organisms which, when transferred to food can produce poisons or toxins capable of producing food poisoning). The single case of food poisoning notified in the area was found to be due, in all probability, to a germ known as the *staphylococcus aureus*, a common inhabitant of the nose and of septic spots, and the mode of spread was as a result of a failure to observe these simple precautions.

Tuberculosis notifications during the year totalled 10, one of which was a case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Eight of the nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were males and the one death during the year from tuberculosis was also male. The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis has shown a remarkable decline in recent years due to the rapid advances in drug therapy. The notification rate has not, however, shown an equal fall and the need for careful supervision of cases and contacts is imperative if we are to avoid increasing the risks of spread of infection following an increase in the number of tuberculous persons in the community due to survival of infectious patients who previously would have succumbed to the disease. The facilities for examination of cases and contacts and for in-patient treat-

ment were virtually non-existent in the area, the nearest Chest Clinics being in Atherstone and Nuneaton. During the year, following an approach to the Chest Physician in the area, part of the Tamworth Isolation Hospital was utilized for the treatment of tuberculous patients and at the time of writing this report I have been unofficially notified that Chest Clinic facilities for out-patient examination and treatment of patients from the Rural District will be made available in Tamworth itself. This move should prove invaluable for both patients and contacts are reluctant to travel far for routine examinations. Vaccinations of child contacts using B.C.G. vaccine, as a result, are arranged by these Clinics outside the District and none were undertaken during the year. I have every hope that this situation will improve as more adequate Clinic facilities are made available.

It is gratifying to note that only one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year, and gradually the bovine type of tubercular infections should die out as each area in the country becomes classed as a designated area in which only tuberculin tested or heat treated milk may be sold. The following tables show the result of investigations of milk supplies in the District carried out during the year by the County Sanitary Inspector where it can be seen that three milk samples out of 76 examined during the year were infected with tubercle bacilli, all being accredited or non-designated milk. In all, five cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1954.

<i>Designation of Milk</i>		<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Positive</i>
Pasteurised	...	8	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	8	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	...	5	Nil
Accredited and Non-designated	...	50	3

Results of Investigations of Tubercle Infected Milk Supplies during the year 1954.

<i>No. of</i>	<i>Cases found on routine sampling in the County</i>	<i>Cases reported by neighbouring County Authorities</i>
1. Investigations ..	3	5
2. Cows examined ...	85	75
3. Milk Samples for diagnostic purposes	18	23
4. Cows slaughtered under Tuberculosis Order	1	4
5. Cows removed from herds during investigations that may have been infected	1	2

The two last tables show the age and sex grouping of new notified cases during the year and the total number of cases remaining on the register.

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths notified during 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	1	1	—	1	—	—	—

**Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on the Register
at 31st December, 1954.**

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
1. Total on Register at 31st December, 1953	35	16	10	7
2. New Cases ...	8	1	1	—
3. Inward Transfers ...	1	—	—	—
4. Removals ...	6	—	4	2
5. Total on Register at 31st December, 1954	38	17	7	5

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The year was in some respects quite a momentous one for there was a big increase in the number of new houses completed; increased use by the property owners of the grants available for modernising houses; a good start made in re-surveying the older houses in the district; Ministerial approval given for the commencement of the Northern Area Sewage Disposal Scheme and Dosthill extension and a good start made; meat came off control and there was a return to slaughtering in the area.

The appointment of Mr. D. S. Fry as additional Sanitary Inspector has meant that 100 per cent. inspection has been maintained at the slaughterhouses and good progress has been made with the housing survey. The absence of clerical assistance, however, does curtail some of the outside duties and this will become more marked when the drive is commenced to get all properties which can be served by new sewers connected to the system.

I am again indebted to Mr. A. Shaw, M.I.Mun.E., the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for information and data as regards new housing, sewerage and refuse collection and to the respective water undertaking officials for information regarding new connections.

GARNET J. WATTS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water continues to be supplied to the district by the following authorities:—

- (a) Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.
- (b) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
- (c) Birmingham Corporation.

During the year the quality of water supplied to the public continued to be satisfactory and there was no evidence of plumbo solvency.

All water is chlorinated and regularly sampled, either by the respective Water Authority or the Health Department of the Council.

During the year, 10 samples were taken by the Health Department from mains and three other sources. Of these, four samples from two wells and a pond proved to be unsatisfactory. In the case of one of the wells a chlorinator is fitted and an increase in the dosage gave a satisfactory result. The water from the other well is being boiled pending the installation of a chlorinator and the pond which was tested with a view to its possible use as a water supply by a farmer has been shown to be an unsatisfactory source of supply.

The following table gives the estimated total of inhabited premises supplied by water mains.

ESTIMATED PARTICULARS OF MAINS WATER CONNECTIONS—Domestic

Parish	Domestic Buildings No.	Domestic Buildings Served	% Served	Supplying Authority
Amington ...	458	438	95.63	Tamworth Joint Board
Austrey ...	119	101	84.87	South Staffs. Water Co.
Bolehall & Glascote	767	741	96.61	Tamworth Joint Board
Kingsbury:				
(Dosthill ...	334)	280		Tamworth Joint Board
(Hurley ...	752)	1,382	95.35	Birmingham Corporation
(Kingsbury ...	657)			
Middleton ...	200	175	87.50	South Staffs. Water Co.
Newton Regis ...	146	144	98.63	South Staffs. Water Co.
Seckington ...	23	19	82.62	South Staffs. Water Co.
Shuttington ...	156	150	96.16	Tamworth Joint Board
Wilnecote & Castle Liberty ...	1,628	1,611	99.06	Tamworth Joint Board
Totals ...	5,240	5,041	96.20	

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year work on two schemes was commenced. They are the long awaited Northern Area Scheme and the Dosthill extension to deal with the added flow from the Hockley Housing Estate.

Tenders were also received for the Kingsbury Deep Scheme and work is due to commence in 1955.

Two smaller schemes were prepared, one for an extension at Quarry Hill, Wilnecote, and the other at the request of the National Coal Board to deal with the drainage from Alvecote Cottages.

Sir Arnold Water's report on the sewers in the Wilnecote and Glascote areas was received and negotiations are in progress with the Trent River Board with a view to submitting the Hurley scheme, which was referred to in last year's annual report, to the Minister.

During the year seven properties changed over to water closets from privy vaults and bucket closets, three extra water closets were installed at houses sharing closet accommodation, and in the case of six properties where no sewer is available septic tanks were installed.

The completion of the Northern Area Scheme will result in increased work in the field of conversions and the abatement of nuisances which at present exist in many of the ditches in the area.

Existing Sewerage Services.

AUSTREY

Small sewage works at Warton Lane which receives waste from most of the village.

Septic Tank at Cinder Lane which receives waste from the top end of the village.

NEWTON REGIS

Settling Tank with overflow to field ditch which receives waste from part of the hamlet of Nomans Heath.

Small sewage works at Newton Regis which serves the Council's Housing Estate with overflow to nearby pond.

SHUTTINGTON

Waste water only drained to sewage field with irrigation channels.

Council houses drained to septic tank.

Alvecote—waste water drain to dilapidated settling tank with overflow to ponds.

All the above parishes and districts, with the exception of Alvecote, will be served by the Northern Area Scheme.

A separate scheme has been formulated for dealing with Alvecote in which the National Coal Board are expected to assist.

AMINGTON

With the exception of a few houses, Amington is fully sewered, draining into the Amington Sewage Works. Work of reconstructing the filter beds has proceeded during the year, the work being done by the Council's workmen.

GLASCOTE

Glascote is fully sewered, draining into the sewers of the Tamworth Joint Sewage District Committee.

WILNECOTE

Kettlebrook, Belgrave, Two Gates and Wilnecote, except for parts of Hockley, are drained to the Tamworth Joint Sewage District Committee's sewer, the remaining part to Dosthill Sewage Works.

DOSTHILL

Drained to Dosthill Sewage Works with a pumping station at the lower end of the village.

KINGSBURY

Drained to Cliff Sewage Works with a pumping station at Coventry Road to pump sewage from lower end into the gravity sewers.

WOOD END

Drained to overloaded small sewage disposal works.

HURLEY

Bottom end of village is drained to Rockingham Sewage Works and the top end including Dexter Colliery to the Old Rail Farm Sewage Works.

MIDDLETON

New Sewage Disposal Works in operation but to date not all the properties are connected to the sewers.

New Sewage Disposal Works in operation at Bassetts Pole and all properties connected.

Verminous Premises and Persons.

During the year six minor infestations of bugs and fleas were found. The use of insecticide powders and liquids and thorough cleansing soon cleared the houses.

Infectious Disease.

The incidence of infectious disease was again low with the result that few visits were made, these being confined to enquiries in cases of Scarlet Fever and fumigation of bedding, etc., after death or removal of T.B. patients.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The system of collecting refuse by direct labour, under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, continues to give a regular collection and the inauguration of a bonus scheme for the employees has helped to speed up the collection so that apart from the occasions when staff is depleted due to illness a weekly collection is now more or less maintained.

No serious infestations from crickets and flies were experienced on the two tips in use due to a combination of a poor summer and the regular use of the Chaseside Shovel. There were, however, three major infestations of rats.

The disposal in the southern end is still at the Cliff Tip but its life is now very short and so far no other site has been found.

The tips are, as yet, not fully controlled, but nevertheless there has been considerable improvement in the management and care since the introduction of mechanisation.

Rodent Control—Report for the period 1/1/54 to 31/3/55.

The Rodent Operative continues to give extremely satisfactory service—a service which is still appreciated by the public. As a result of his vigilance three major infestations only were found and these were on the Council's refuse tips. The inspection of farm premises was limited due to his mode of transport but the Council's decision to acquire a van for this work will enable the duties laid on the Local Authority by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to be more fully carried out.

Particulars from the return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and details of sewer treatments are as follows:—

(a) Ministry Return.

No. of properties in district:

Local Authority	...	...	18
Houses	...	...	4,927
Agriculture	...	...	170
Business	...	...	320
		—	5,435

No. of properties inspected:

Local Authority	...	...	18	
Houses	...	...	570	
Agriculture	...	...	11	
Business	...	...	11	
			<hr/>	610

No. of properties found infested and treated

(a) Rats; (b) mice:

Local Authority (a)	...	...	11	
(b)	...	...	—
Houses (a)	...	...	379	
... (b)	...	...	3	
Agriculture (a)	...	...	3	
(b)	...	...	—
Business (a)	...	...	6	
(b)	...	...	4	
			<hr/>	406

No. of inspections—re-inspections included:

Local Authority	...	...	56	
Houses	...	...	1,120	
Agriculture	...	...	11	
Business	...	...	39	
			<hr/>	1,226

(b) No. of baiting points and bodies picked up on:—

	<i>Points</i>	<i>Bodies</i>
Local Authority Tips	320	260
„ „ Sewage Works	236	105
Farms	82	102
Business Properties	143	65
Surface Treatments	1,922	800
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,703	1,332

(c) The sewer treatments carried out in June and December showed:—

	June	Dec.	Total
No. of manholes baited	250	265	515
.. .. showing no takes of bait	127	119	246
.. .. partial takes of bait	93	109	202
.. .. complete takes of bait	30	37	67

No notices were served during the year and the co-operation of the public with your operative continues to be of the high order necessary to ensure the efficient working of this public service.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	41	20	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding outworkers premises)	11	2	—	—
Totals	66	26	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	3	—

Canal Boats.

Visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats.

Traffic is still very light and consequently the number of boats inspected few. These have been visited usually while the boats have been tied up awaiting orders.

During the year one new registration was made. There were no cancellations. This now shows 147 boats on the register at the end of the year.

Fourteen boats were inspected. At the time of inspection they were registered for occupation by 37 persons and were occupied by seven males, eight females and eight children.

The ages of the children were:—

				Male	Female
Age 4 years	...	...	1	—	
„ 6 „	...	...	—		1
„ 7 „	...	...	1		1
„ 8 „	...	...	—		1
„ 9 „	...	...	1		1
„ 10 „	...	...	1		—
				<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4

Seven complaint notes were issued where the certificate did not identify the owner with the boat.

As no infectious disease was met with no boat was detained for disinfection.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The continued absence of the atmospheric pollution gauges prevents an overall picture of conditions in the area being given.

During the year the installation of grit arrestors at Kingsbury Colliery, referred to in my last report, was completed and since then no complaints have been received. The spoil banks give intermittent cause for complaint but the National Coal Board officials continue in their co-operation in endeavouring to keep this nuisance to a minimum.

Complaints were also received of grit emissions from a small foundry at Glascote. The owners have agreed to install a new furnace incorporating a grit baffle to try to minimise any cause for complaint.

HOUSING.

During the year 336 new houses were completed in the district, 56 by the Local Authority, 234 by the Coal Industry Housing Association and 46 by private enterprise. At the end of the year 220 were in course of erection, 168 by the Local Authority and 52 by private enterprise and the Coal Industry Housing Association. This compares with 55 completed during the previous year.

During the year 14 cases were reported to the Council as needing sympathetic consideration in re-housing due to overcrowding, etc. Of these, and cases previously reported, nine were re-housed by the Council. All the cases brought forward were referred by the Health Committee to the appropriate Housing Committee for consideration. Six others were re-housed by the Coal Industry Housing Association.

The number of applicants on the Council's list at the end of the year was 469 compared with an estimated total of 528 at the end of the previous year.

During the year four demolition orders were made and the remaining shacks on the Clvro site were vacated and cleared.

One statutory notice was served requiring repairs to property and this was complied with.

Following the Committee's instructions a start was made on re-surveying the older type houses in the district and by the end of the year the following parishes had been completed:

Austrey, Newton Regis, Kingsbury (including the wards of Kingsbury, Dosthill, and Hurley), and 29 properties in them scheduled as of slum clearance type.

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, three certificates of disrepair were issued.

The Council are continuing to implement the recommendation of the Ministry, encouraging the public to apply for grants available to help in the modernising of property.

During the year 29 applications were dealt with and grants made and/or offered amounting to £3,324 10s.

The applications were in respect of conversions and the installation of hot and cold water supplies, baths, water closets, new drainage and improved food storage facilities.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	248
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	628
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	33
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	245
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	29
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	196

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	32
---	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936. Part IV.

OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	18
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	86
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	14

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	15
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	74
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil
4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.	
(1) (i) Total number	927
(ii) Under Part III. of Housing Act, 1925, during last two years.	
(a) 1953	36
(b) 1954	56
(2) Under Part II. of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
(3) Other Powers	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year the condition of the seven dairies continued to be satisfactory.

Enquiries were made at six farms following reports of T.B. positive milk samples taken by various sampling officers, either at the farm, on the round or at the dairies to which the milk is sent. In all these cases the milk was sent to dairies where it is subject to heat treatment.

According to the notifications received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, nine new T.T. licences were granted during the year.

Milk Licences.

The number of licences in force at the end of the year were:—

Dealers (sterilised)	5
Dealers (pasteurised)	11
Dealers (tuberculin tested)	7
	<hr/>
	23
	<hr/>

The sale of designated bottled milk is increasing, the number of licences being double those in force in 1953. The possibility of the area becoming a designated area in 1955 has undoubtedly had a bearing on this matter.

Meat Inspection.

The decontrol of meat during the year meant that slaughtering was again commenced in the area. At the end of the year four of the slaughterhouses were licensed, only two of which are in regular use, the other two being for occasional use. 100 per cent. inspection has been carried out and the following tables show the numbers killed and the amounts found unfit.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	525	7	20	1,250	1,055
Number inspected	525	7	20	1,250	1,055
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	48	1	—	1	14
% of number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.14	14.3	—	.078	1.7
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	5	—	—	26
% of number in- spected affected with T.B.	8.19	71.44	—	—	2.46

Diseased Meat and Offals.

All diseases except T.B.

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Cattle	Carcase Meat	...		4	1	9
	Offals	...		6	—	11
Calves	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		—	—	—
Sheep	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		—	—	2
Pigs	Carcase Meat	...		3	1	2
	Offals	...		—	1	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Cattle	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		11	—	27
Calves	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		—	—	—
Sheep	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		—	—	—
Pigs	Carcase Meat	...		—	—	—
	Offals	...		2	3	2
			1 ton	7cwt.	3qrs.	25lbs.

Other Foods.

5lb. tin Brisket Beef	...	...	...	5
2 x 6lb. tins Corned Beef	...	...	...	12
				17lbs.

Licences.

The number of premises licensed under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is:—

43 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

3 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream (one of which did not operate for manufacture during the year but stored and sold pre-packed ice cream).

10 premises for the preparation and manufacture of sausages and potted meat, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, including the preparation of meat or fish by any process of cooking. (Three of these were not used during the year).

Ice-Cream.

Results of samples:—

	Grade:	1	2	3	4	Total
Manufactured in district	...	8	2	2	4	16
„ outside „	...	2	1	—	—	3
		10	3	2	4	19

Where grade four samples were taken extensive inspections of plant and enquiry into methods of production together with repeat samples of ice cream and ingredients were carried out until the required standard was again reached. Tribute must again be paid to the manufacturers in the district for their conscientiousness and co-operation.

Vehicles were inspected and found satisfactory.

Shops.

The majority of the shops in the district are the small type general store and usually run by the family. The sixty shops retailing food stuffs maintained a good standard of cleanliness and structural improvements were carried out to one of them. One trader operates two mobile shops and these are well laid out both as regards cleanliness and storage facilities (including insulated storage cabinet for fats) and from a road safety angle for serving.

The seven butchers' shops complete with cold storage facilities retained their good standard.

The improvement in the staffing question and the early completion of the Housing Survey should enable more time to be devoted to this aspect of shop inspection.

The number of visits made in connection with food, milk, ice cream and premises during the year (excluding slaughter-houses) was 142.

Food Guilds.

There are no Food Guilds in operation in the district, the rural nature of which makes an organisation of this kind difficult to plan.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	36
Drainage	...	...	...	...	198
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	5
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	9
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	24
Factories, etc.	...	...	...	...	28
Refuse	...	...	...	...	12
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	63
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	19
Schools	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	14
Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	6
Housing—Public Health Act	...	...	227)	
Housing Act	...	...	245)	
Overcrowding	...	...	13	)	628
Dirty or Verminous	...	...	15)	
Miscellaneous	...	...	128)	
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	48
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	367
Food Premises	...	...	...	14)
„ Shops	...	...	...	50)
Ice Cream	...	...	...	49)
Milk	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous Food	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	38

Tamworth Herald Co., Ltd., Printers
